

BINGHAMTON (N.Y.)
PRESS

NOV 26 1960

Circ. e. 69,684
S. 69,662Front Page Edit. Other
Page Page Page

Date:

Study of National Goals

A study proposed by President Eisenhower in his 1959 State of the Union Message on national goals will be reported on Monday. The findings of the President's Commission are certain to produce extensive discussion, and certainly some controversy.

Aim of the study, as proposed, was to create long-range plans for the nation's social and economic well-being. Staff work for the Commission was directed by William P. Bundy, former Central Intelligence Agency official.

Bundy recruited a group of authorities on such subjects as foreign policy, defense, science and the like. Each of these, after consulting an advisory panel, wrote one chapter in a 16-chapter background book. The Commission's own shorter report is based on the background work.

The Advertising Council is conducting a nationwide campaign urging Americans to read the Commission report. It will be published in book form by Prentice-Hall on Dec. 12.

While the Commission's report does not stress governmental action to achieve national goals, that is an inevitable implication. Under our form of government, government exists, not to pursue its own purpose, but to fulfill a founding philosophy of individual freedom within a context of public order.

America's greatness is owed not to government purposes but to individuals

acting singly and collectively in embracing opportunities, seeking their own good in their own ways. Thus a great nation has risen out of wilderness. Despite many justified criticisms, America has met more of the criteria of a civilized society than any in human history.

But some Americans insist that their country has lost its way, its national purpose. Definitions of such purpose are vague, the generalization being that all Americans are not supporting specific government programs. Aside from wartime, Americans never have been in uniform agreement with projects of politicians.

Epitomizing the thinking of those who view America groping in darkness has been a series of articles in Life magazine. The reasoning is neither inductive nor deductive, but begins with conclusions.

The role of government is not to decide national purpose beyond those built into the founding philosophy of government. Individual freedom has worked to yield astounding economic development and social progress. If sustained, it will work in the future to meet all challenges and fulfill true national purpose.

Americans really will have lost their way if government takes over definition of national goals, with individuals conforming in thinking and action like sheep.

CPYRGHT